

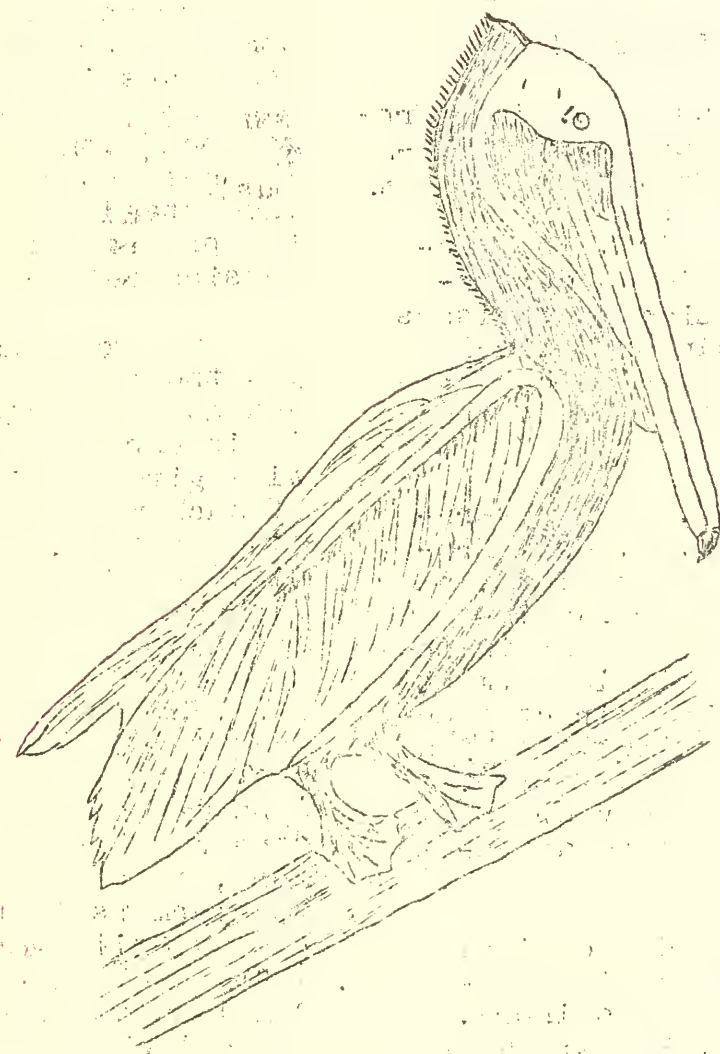
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Nov. 2, 1934

1.1, No. 5

THE BRUSHY-COOLEY-CYPRESS CREEK NEWS



U.S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINDEN, LA.

The Brushy-Cooley-Cypress
Creek

N-E-W-S

Issued Twice Monthly at
Minden, La.

By the U. S. Soil Erosion
Service, Department of
the Interior

Vol. 1 No. 5
November 2, 1934

REMEMBER, COOPERATIVE

The work of the U. S. Soil Erosion Service is planned and operated on a strictly volunteer and cooperative agreement between the farmer and this service. The success of the work being undertaken in Webster and Lincoln parishes will be measured almost entirely in terms of the degree of cooperation given by the farmers of the two areas.

The government, your government, through the U. S. Soil Erosion Service has already made, and will make in the future, an increasingly large investment in the work of the area. This investment is being made for the direct benefit of Webster and Lincoln parish farmers. What you, as a farmer, receive in benefits to your land out of this program depends entirely upon you.

A highly trained technical force, fully equipped with necessary materials and machinery, is at your service. You are urged to use these men; to profit by their training and experience. These men and this program are here for your benefit. They can be of help to you, or more correctly perhaps, to your lands, only if you will use them and cooperate with them in the great program of erosion control now being carried on.

If you are holding back or are a little skeptical at the present, you owe it to yourself to investigate. If you do not believe this program of work will be worth something to you, and is all to your advantage, it is certainly because you have been misinformed about the program.

Come into either the Minden or Ruston offices at any time and ask for an explanation of the complete program. If there is some question upon which you want more information, don't go about wondering. It is our business to see to it that you understand the full working of the program of the U. S. Soil Erosion Service.

The government is offering you the services of skilled men and much material. In return, it is expected that the farmer will give of his own time and of such materials as he has on his own farm. In short, the individual farmer must show a willingness to share his part of the burden.

Judging by the results already achieved in working out cooperative agreements in the Minden and Ruston areas, it does not appear amiss to say here, that we believe most of the farmers in the areas served by the Soil Erosion Service project in North Louisiana thoroughly understand that their cooperation is not only desired, but must be had in order to make the program a real success.

GOOD WORK!

Many compliments have been received on the State Fair exhibit. A good piece of work, well carried out.

Items Gleaned From Exchanges - Read Them -

"The SOIL is the product of all our history. It is the meeting place of the animate and the inanimate. It is the magic medium by which the animate may continue on earth."

The stark truth has already dawned (or is beginning to dawn) on observing men and women--aggravated rainwash is robbing this country of its soil, the people's first and most dependable asset, to say nothing of the resultant increased hazard of droughts and floods.

CHECK DAMS STOP GULLIES FROM TAKING YOUR LAND.

HELP PREVENT WOOD FIRES

Be sure your match is out before throwing it away.

Don't throw away burning tobacco and cigarettes.

Choose a safe place and make your camp fire small.

Put out your fire with water and then cover it with earth.

Do not burn along fence rows or allow fire to travel over abandoned fields.

Don't make large brush heaps. Choose a still day for burning brush.

Don't put off plowing furrows around your woodlands.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE, ALWAYS

ADVANTAGES OF STRIP CROPPING

1. It can be put into practice by a farmer without any great initial cost.

2. Boundary lines of the strips, while it is best that they follow the contours of the slopes, do not demand the same engineering exactness necessary in terracing.

3. In some cases it is more economical, since long, narrow fields require somewhat less labor to farm than do square ones of the same area.

4. No obstructions to interfere with use of machinery.

5. Strip cropping can be used with and is an excellent supplement to terracing.

6. Reduces erosion in six ways:

a. Provides closer ground cover.

b. The greater number of roots aid in holding the soil.

c. Reduces the cultivated area of the field.

d. Acts as an absorbent for rainfall.

e. Spreads water which may collect in rivulets in cultivated areas.

f. Filters out the soil which is being carried by the water.

A CRISIS

"No nation or race has used its agricultural lands so wastefully as the United States. Once we looked upon these lands as being limitless and inexhaustible and while we have spent hundreds of millions of dollars for fertilizers, soil improving crops, plant breeding, agricultural machinery and education with the view of conserving the fertility of the land, we have done little to conserve the soil itself.

"Of course, we must continue to cultivate in the neighborhood of 300 million acres. No one is proposing to discontinue such cultivation. We shall never be able to stop erosion completely or to cause all the rainfall to be absorbed by the ground; but we can, if we will, go far in the direction of reducing these losses and at the same time produce enough and more for all our needs. If this is to be a permanently prosperous country, we must from now on battle for the conservation of our remaining areas of good farm land."--H. H. Bennett, Director U. S. Soil Erosion Service, Washington, D. C.

If you are not getting the NEWS or have a friend who is not on our mailing list, send the name to us.

Taking It On The Chin! \$ Talk \$ —

While legislators argue, scratch their heads and stay up late at night in efforts to find new means of increasing the tax revenue of the commonwealth, and while Mr. and Mrs. Citizen wail that their tax burden is excessive and beyond all reason, there is right before us, so large that it is apparently overlooked, a definite answer to the never-ending search for more governmental income.

Here are the facts, the figures for Louisiana state-owned lands, prepared by A. S. McKean, Chief Forester of the Soil Erosion Service:

The average citizen does not realize there is an immense total of approximately 3,000,000 acres of land in Louisiana which have reverted to the state for delinquent taxes. It has been definitely proved, checked and re-checked that this land, properly handled under a forestry program could be made to produce an annual income of \$4 per acre. Simple mathematics, then, tell us that here is a terrific yearly income that is being missed.

Figure for a moment that these 3,000,000 acres of land, which today are producing no taxes for state or parish, were paying a combined tax of 12 cents per acre into parish and state coffers. This would give the state and parishes an additional annual revenue of \$360,000. Deduct this amount of tax revenue from the \$12,000,000 earning power of this land under a forestry program and there would be left a total sum of \$11,640,000 which could be distributed in the areas where this idle land is located, thus making a sum of money available that would be more than enough to care for the relief burden in these areas. At \$300 per year paid for labor, which could be taken from relief roles, the sum which could be derived from these idle state owned lands, would give a monthly revenue of \$25 to 38,800 families.

On the other hand, let us suppose that the state puts a great forestry program into operation on Louisiana's 3,000,000 acres of idle lands, then great tracts could easily be taken over by towns and cities, idle labor put to work and unemployment ended. Bonds voted for the purchase of such forestry tracts would easily be retired by the profit from the land which would soon be paying dividends to the communities owning them.

Here is something that is worth plenty of thought and attention.

NEVER FORGET THAT YOUR FORESTS ARE WORTH MONEY.

The above figures were used by the Shreveport Journal in an enlightening and interesting editorial carried in a recent edition of that paper.

PROTECT, CULTIVATE YOUR FORESTS--Do your part to make the forestry program a success.

News Squibs!

FINE MEETINGS IN RUSTON AREA LAST WEEK

Under the direction of H. B. Martin, Agronomist in charge of the Ruston office, a series of great community meetings were held in five communities in Lincoln parish from Monday, Oct. 29 through Friday, Nov. 2.

Interesting talks on the different phases of work conducted by the Soil Erosion Service were made by members of the staff at both Ruston and Minden.

The meetings, which were held at Hilly, Unionville, Mineral Springs, Barnett Springs and Cook Town, were well attended.

"MILLION DOLLAR POCKETS" MOVIE PROGRAM

The two-reel picture, entitled "Million Dollar Pockets" and having to do with the destructive gopher, will be shown on the schedule given below in Webster parish next week. A full attendance is expected at all places where the movie will be presented.

Monday, Oct. 5, 7:30 o'clock
Dubberly School Building

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 7:30 o'clock
Sibley School building

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 o'clock
Heflin School Building

This same picture, which was secured from Washington by Mr. Hammett, was shown at the Fair held in Ruston on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

BASKETBALL TEAM

A group of players in the Minden office have organized a basketball team. The Editor understands the boys have played several games. Outcome of these games, so far as the Editor can learn, are being kept secret. More info on sports activities next issue.

NATIONAL SOIL EROSION SERVICE NEWS

An area covering more than 67,000 acres of highly valuable farm land in Santa Cruz County in the fruit-growing region of California has been selected as the site of a new demonstration in practical and scientific erosion control.

An allotment of \$200,000 has been made from PWA funds.

Oklahoma farmers who were reluctant to cooperate with the Stillwater Creek project at first are now willing to sign blank contracts, is the report made by Dr. N. E. Winters, regional director.

An increase of \$250,000 in the original allotment for the Gila River erosion control project in Arizona and New Mexico was announced recently by H. H. Bennett, Director.

Extension of the Federal erosion control program in Minnesota to cover an additional 6,000 acres in the watershed of Gilmore Creek in Winona County has been announced. An allotment of \$25,000 was made from PWA funds for carrying on this work.

A Federal erosion control demonstration project, covering approximately 75,000 acres in northern New Jersey, with a PWA fund allotment of \$200,000 has been announced by Mr. Bennett. This project is located about 40 miles from New York City. The area is typical of 1,000,000 acres of surrounding country representing the Piedmont or red-lands section in that state. Work has already started on this new project.

An article discussing the various types of soil in the Minden and Ruston areas will be printed in each issue of the NEWS. These articles are written by A. H. Bean, Soil Expert. The first of this series, which appears below, is

CUTHBERT FINE SANDY LOAM

Cuthbert fine sandy loam is probably the most extensive soil type of the Minden area. It consists, in virgin areas, of about six inches of gray to brownish gray loamy fine sand grading downward into a layer of from 10 to 14 inches thick of yellow to yellowish gray loamy fine sand. This layer grades quickly downward at from 16 to 20 inches below the surface into a buff to reddish-yellow or yellowish-red fine sandy clay.

The gray and yellow surface soil is loose and often incoherent when dry, but on wetting becomes rather packed and firm. The sandy clay subsoil bakes hard when dry but crushes with pressure into small grains and granules. On wetting the subsoil melts down to a soft friable mass. The whole soil, due to the light, open character of the subsoil, is more drought resistant than many of the looser or heavier and harder characterized types.

If the rains in this country were gentle rather than torrential this soil would be practically non-erosive, but due to this especially high rate of rainfall the absorptive capacities of the subsoil are surpassed and the surplus water must run off the land in some manner unless steps are taken to hold this water until there is sufficient time for the rainfall to penetrate the deeper subsoils.

The cultivated areas of this soil usually have thinner topsoil layers, usually ranging from 6 to 12 to 14 inches of loose topsoil on the sandy clay subsoil. Old fields almost universally have some exposure of the subsoil on ridges, slopes and gullies. As the surface soil erodes much more quickly than the subsoil a rather shallow gully is usually formed. A proportionally large area is cut down to the subsoil before a very deep gully is washed out. This fact of erosion has allowed many areas of this soil to become practically denuded of topsoil before the outstanding criteria of erosion, the gully, ever become noticeable.

Cuthbert fine sandy loam is rather retentative of moisture and returns reasonable yields depending upon rainfall, maintenance of fertility and degree of erosion. It is largely devoted to corn and cotton, but oats, sorghums, cane, peanuts, sweet and Irish potatoes, cowpeas, lespedeza, vegetables, fruits and pecans are grown successfully. The soil is acid in reaction and needs application of lime before some of the clovers and alfalfa can be grown.

Unless this soil is worn out by continuous cropping with no fertilization or organic matter returned to the field, it is one of the best general farming soils of the area, but erosion must be controlled to stop the leaching of plant foods and to preserve the surface or topsoil layers upon which the successful farmer must depend for profitable crop production.

KEEP A FILE OF YOUR COPIES OF THE NEWS.
THERE IS MUCH INFORMATION OF VALUE IN
EACH ISSUE AND YOU WILL FIND A FILE
HANDY IN REFERRING TO VARIOUS ARTICLES
CARRIED IN BACK ISSUES.

SOILS
A. H. Bean

Up to Nov. 1 a total of 169 soils maps for as many farms, representing 20,246 acres in the Minden area had been completed.

A total of 122 farms representing 16,545 acres in the Ruston area have been similarly mapped.

Cropping maps have been completed for the entire area.

ENGINEERING
F. S. Edmiston

Some of the figures on work done under the direction of the Engineering Department, are as follows:

Terrace lines run, 1,100,045; strip cropping lines run, 100,422; feet of terraces built, 636,308; total number of dams of all kinds that have been built under the direction of T. C. Anderson and A. Osterberger, 1,840; square feet of banks slopes, 1,394,955; cubic feet of gullies controlled by loose brush, 19,507; square feet of banks protected by vegetation, 2,000; number feet of contour lines run, 1,208,282; Feet of terraces built built by farmers, 1,315.

Incidentally one of the best speeches we have ever heard given on the work of the Soil Erosion Service was delivered on Wednesday night at Mineral Springs by F. S. Edmiston. Take it from the Editor this talk was a rip-snorter and we are sorry that every member in our own organization as well as every farmer in the area couldn't have heard this masterpiece.

FACTS FROM THE CHIEF CLERK
M. Hays

It is interesting to know that the payroll in the Minden office for the period Oct. 1 to 15, was as follows:

108 men working in the field drew-----	\$4,537.09
23 men on permanent staff-----	\$1,901.03
Grand total for period	<u>\$6,438.12</u>

During the same period for the Ruston office:

Men working in the field drew-----	\$3,533.50
Permanent Ruston office force-----	\$ 900.00
Ruston total for period---	<u>\$4,444.50</u>

Grand total, entire area---\$10,882.62

Think what this terrific payroll is bound to mean to business in the towns of Minden and Ruston, as well as in adjoining towns. This sum, of course, does not include money spent for materials, etc.

Farmers in the two areas, in carrying out their end of the cooperative agreements, are also spending a considerable sum of money each month. This is money, well invested in labor which means permanent benefits to the people of the area.

Keep on reading--Some interesting information on pasture work will be found on the next page.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

W. E. Dee

No better criterion of the successful and outstanding pasture work being done in the Ruston-Minden areas can be found than an actual testimonial from a farmer on what he thinks of the value of a good pasture as undertaken under the methods being used by Mr. Dee and his helpers. E. H. Lumpkin, dairy farmer living near Minden has the following to say:

"Soil Erosion control means successful farming. Agriculture is the basic foundation of civilization. From the beginning man has tilled the soil for bread. The history of our country shows man taking from the soil without thought of losing it. But as the years passed, he began to learn his downfall after erosion had taken its toll of millions of tons of top soil--the very life of plant food. Then it was that a study of soils, different kinds of legumes, etc. was started.

"Finally the Federal Government could see a rich, fertile, agricultural nation importing fertilizer to raise food for its people. So the government started experimenting with legumes, strip cropping and soil erosion control. The New Deal saw fit to appropriate funds to carry to the people what had been learned. I think it very fortunatr that North Louisiana and especially Webster Parish was chosen for a demonstration area. I believe that if soil erosion control methods now being put into effect had been practiced on my farm the last twenty-five years that I would not have had to buy commercial fertilizer this year.

"If the farmers of this area will give their cooperation to the able leaders of this project they will be able to discontinue unproductive farming methods and expensive fertilizer bills will become a thing of the past. Just think of these bitter weed hills bring turned into luxurious clover meadows! Follow the plans that Mr. Dee, Chief of Range Management, gives you and you will have just that. Mr. Dee was good enough to take of his valuable time back in 1929 to go over my place and suggest just the type of clover and grasses he thought I should have. And, boy, now I have a few acres of permanent pasture that pays me better than any acres of cultivated land I plant. Yes, it cost me some money, but now the government offers a real pasture program to the farmer simply for his cooperation.

"I think the time is in the making for a regular appropriation of money each year by our State and National Governments to control the tremendous erosion waste for good. This is everybody's concern. It doesn't stop with the farmer alone. Why shouldn't such steps be taken? The government has appropriated money to eradicate dangerous diseases--so why not take care of the very foundation of our future civilization--the land.

"Believe me, I want to thank each and every one of the men connected with the Soil Erosion Service project in Webster parish for their sincere efforts on my place. You fellows who are out better get in! It's all for your good.

"E. H. Lumpkin,

"Dairy Farmer."

RAIN COMES AT LAST

A long-awaited and badly needed rain visited both the Minden and Ruston areas on Friday night. The average rainfall at Ruston was around three inches, while the Minden area did not fare so well with the heaviest fall, according to a check of the rain gauges, being slightly less than one inch.

The rain was more than welcome. Farmers who have been anxious for some time to get seeds planted for strip-cropping have been making a steady stream of visitors to the offices since Friday.

The seeding machines have already been swung into action and this work will be pushed rapidly as possible.

Mr. Dee has been needing rain badly for the pasture work and no one was "more proud" to see the moisture than he.

Incidentally, the pasture program in North Louisiana is fast becoming one of the most popular phases of soil erosion control work. More and more farmers are realizing the value of a good pasture and Mr. Dee is seeing to it that a good foundation for excellent permanent pastures is being laid.

HEY! LOOK WHAT MR. BURFORD HAS TO SAY

Mr. W. S. Burford, who owns a dandy farm east of Dubberly came into the Minden office this week to see about getting soil erosion control work started on his place.

One of the clerks in Mr. Morris' office started explaining the work to Mr. Burford, but he didn't get very far with the explanation.

"Don't waste your time telling me about the work," Mr. Burford said, "just give me some of it. I've seen enough of the work on farms of others to know it is just what I want."

(Next column-Keep reading)

"But," the amazed clerk said, "we may want to take certain areas of your farm out of cultivation and may want to do some tree planting on other areas."

"All, right, all right," Mr. Burford came back, "do just that and whatever else you want to do. Just give me contract, let me put my name to it and let's get going."

"I know this Soil Erosion Service program is O. K. You fellows take my farm, work on the program as you see fit. I'll do my best to carry out my part of the agreement."

TO WHICH WE SIMPLY ADD:
ATTA BOY!

GIVE THE LADIES A HAND

Three busy young ladies (count 'em) working in the Minden office! Here, there and everywhere! Filing, typing, answering questions--always busy, always on the job. Smiling--yes, you said it--smiling and working.

Three young ladies--Miss Taylor, Miss Kitchens, Miss Cox. GIVE THE LADIES A GREAT BIG HAND.

WE ADMIT**

The printing, page headings etc. in this little publication are far from perfect--or even being good. You've heard of homespun philosophy? Well, this is rather homespun printing. However, furthermore and in addition, we do try to make the NEWS interesting, informative and readable. So if we fill the bill in this line perhaps our readers can "put up with" inartistic printing. Another thing: If someone wants to volunteer for the printing job he is hired forthwith!

HON. RILEY J. WILSON MAKES TOUR OF RUSTON
AREA--EXPRESSES SELF ON WORK THAT
IS BEING DONE

Hon. Riley J. Wilson, Congressman from the Fifth District, in an interview Monday, Nov. 5 expressed himself as highly pleased with the work being done by the U. S. Soil Erosion Service in the Lincoln parish area.

Judge Wilson's statement came following a tour made on Friday afternoon in company with H. M. Mims, H. B. Martin, F. S. Edmiston and A. C. Morris.

"I am thoroughly convinced," Judge Wilson said, "that the program of soil erosion control, as I saw it being carried out on my trip over the area, will double the value of the land, not only as to its usage and better production but as to its real value.

"This program of preserving the land and of putting eroded and unproductive lands into timber and productive pastures, I believe, is one of the best rounded and well-planned farm programs that has ever been developed by the national government for permanent good.

"Interest in the work is growing at a rapid rate. Farmers within the area are eager to grasp this opportunity of land preservation for their farms; and farmers from all parts of North Louisiana are making inquiries and visits to the North Louisiana project and wanting to see this type of work expanded to include their parishes.

"I am vitally interested in this important work and shall always be ready to do whatever I can to aid in its expansion."

On Wednesday night Judge Wilson attended a community meeting at Mineral Springs and spoke briefly there on the soil erosion control program.

Judge Wilson was highly complimentary about the fine spirit of enthusiasm that the members of the Ruston office are showing in the work and stated that it was this spirit which makes the farmers of the area anxious to give their cooperation to the program

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H. M. Mims, acting regional director, was one of the speakers on the program last Saturday when correspondents for the Minden newspapers gathered here as guests of local newspaper publishers. Mr. Mims made an interesting address on the progress of the work and on the program of work being carried out in this area. His address was well received by the large crowd in attendance at the meeting.

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Almost daily delegations of visitors from North Louisiana parishes are visiting the offices at Ruston and Minden. These visitors all have one thing in mind: To learn more of the program of soil erosion control and to find out how they can go about securing such a project for their parishes.

They are unanimous in voicing loud praise of the work and stating they think the U. S. Soil Erosion Service is one of the outstanding agencies ever set up in this country for the permanent betterment of agriculture and agricultural methods.

It is a real pleasure to show these people over the area and to explain the work to them.

U. S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Minden and Ruston, Louisiana

Penalty for Private
Use to Avoid Payment
of Postage \$300.00

Name _____

Address _____

J. F. BURNS, route 1, Minden, says: I can't put into so many words just what I think of the Soil Erosion Service, but if I could every word that I used would be an adjective. This program of work, I believe, will be the life of my land, and I am certainly anxious to cooperate in every way in carrying out my end of the cooperative agreement.

D. D. Lunsford says: What do I think of the Soil Erosion Service work? That can be best answered by saying that I will spend around \$500 of my own money in carrying out my end of the agreement. Certainly, I am sold on the program and I cannot see why any farmer would not be. I'm talking soil erosion control to all my neighbors. The only "kick" I could possibly make would be that this program of work was not started 10 or 15 years ago.

IF YOU HAVE A NEIGHBOR WHO IS NOT A CONTRACT SIGNER,
DO HIM A FAVOR--INSIST THAT HE ACCOMPANY YOU EITHER
TO THE RUSTON OR MINDEN OFFICE AND HAVE THE PROGRAM
EXPLAINED IN FULL TO HIM.